CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST

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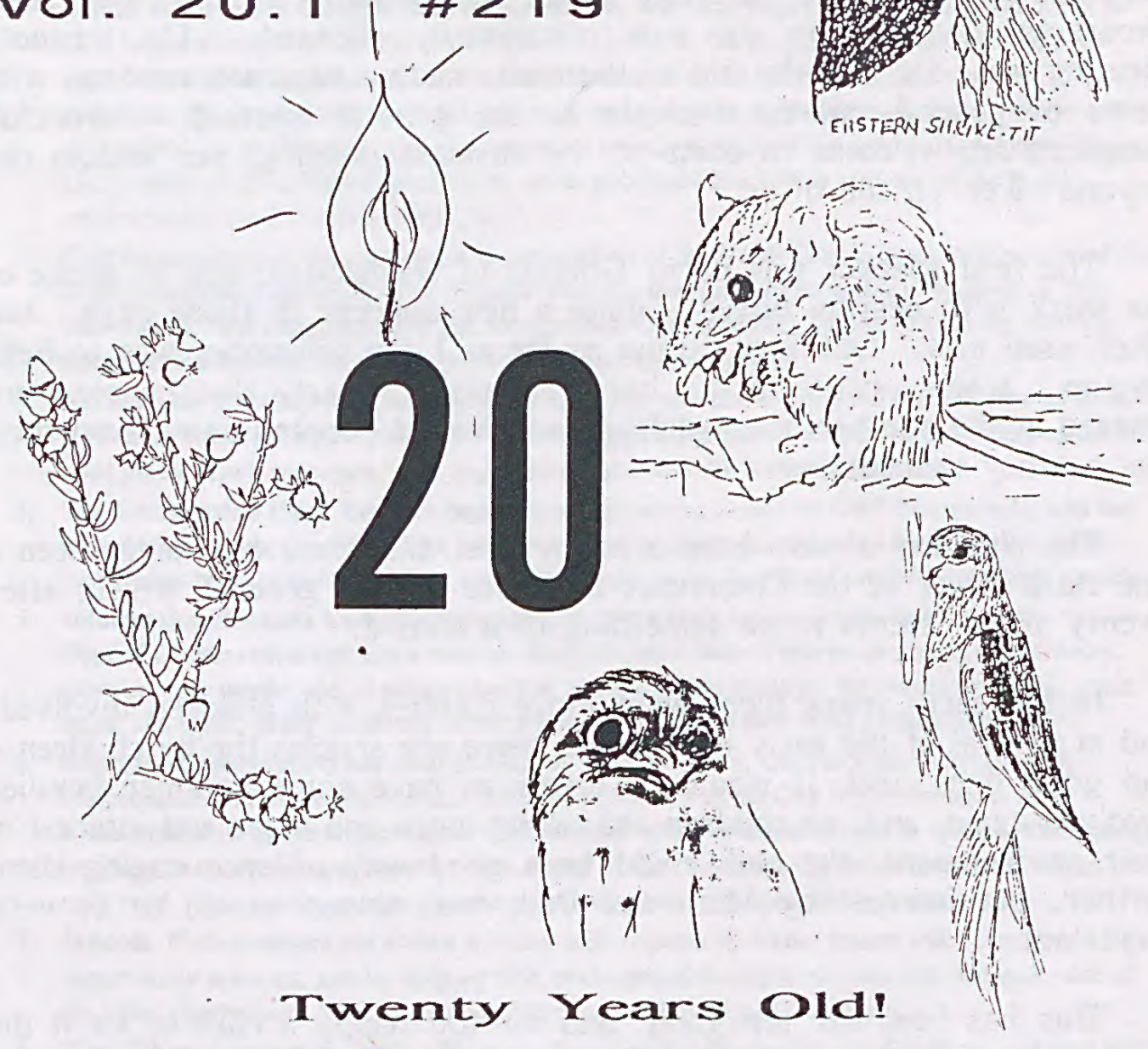

Twenty Years Old!

Twenty years ago Ray Bradfield convened a meeting to test the interest of the community for establishing a Field Naturalists' Club in Castlemaine. About forty interested people turned up to this inaugural meeting and thus the Club began. Ray was elected the first President, Rita Mills the Secretary and Lloyd Bransgrove the Treasurer. A committee was elected consisting of Ern Perkins, Geoff Sitch, George Broadway, Max and Ruth Winterbottom and Joyce Chapman, making a total of nine. Frank Meyer was co-opted at the April meeting bringing the number to ten. Ern accepted the role of Newsletter Editor, and the first Castlemaine Naturalist appeared as a 4 page sheet in April 1976. It was done as an experiment, but proved to be popular and has continued to be published every month except January ever since.

The meetings were held on the third Wednesday of each month until it was decided to start in September that year meeting on the second Friday. It was felt it would be a better day as there were several children who came along with parents. The general meeting was held in the old Education Centre above the S.E.C. (now C.H.I.R.P.) offices and the outing was the following weekend. Later, by a show of hands, it was decided to make the Saturday after the general meeting the usual excursion day, though this is occasionally changed. The business meeting was, early in the life of the club, made a separate meeting, with items of general interest brought to the general meeting. Any club members are welcome to come to the business meeting, but seldom has anyone taken up the offer!

The first speaker was Barry Golding of Daylesford, and he spoke of his work with nesting boxes - quite a new concept in those days, but often used now. Our first outing as far as I can remember was to Bells Swamp. I was unable to go, but I remember clearly that people were amazed at the number of small frogs which kept hopping away from their feet as they walked.

The club has always been a happy one, and there has never been a real clash either in the Committee or in the club in general, which, after twenty years, seems to be something of a record.

In the early years there were more families with children involved, and in several of the early newsletters there are articles the by children - and good ones, too. It would be lovely to have some younger families involved again, and, as children are taking more and more and interest in their environment, the club could be a good way of encouraging them further, but interest by Mum and Dad, too, always seems to be very important.

This has been far too good, and far too happy a club to let it die from want of interest. We need younger members and families. We have had (and have lined up) some marvellous speakers, and over the years almost any subject of natural history has been covered, from orchids to ornithology, from Aborigines of the district to walks in the Himalayas, from furry animals to rocks - and everything else in between. The outings, too, have been varied and interesting. Many have been in the district, but sometimes they have been as far away as Terrick-Terrick and Ocean Grove as full day outings.

I think this is the time to say a big THANKYOU to all who have contributed to the club, whether a committee member or an ordinary member, all have played a part in making the club what it is today.

Ed.

TWENTY YEARS OF CONSERVATION.

From its earliest years, the Castlemaine F.N.C., and its members, have been active in conservation. Documenting of the natural history of our area, educating the community about the value of the bushland and its inhabitants, and getting the community's support is the most effective form of conservation. We have perhaps been too quiet about our many achievements. We have a record of which we can be proud.

1 **Land Conservation Council**. One of our earliest, and most important, activities was when the LCC began a review of the North Central Area in 1976. We provided the LCC with detailed information about local forests, and made submissions about these areas, and about LCC proposals. The local fauna and flora reserves, the state park at Mt Alexander, the historic areas of Castlemaine and Maldon, and the education areas, all resulted from the LCC review. The LCC *Report on the North Central Study Area*, published in 1978, is still one of the basic references for the Castlemaine district.

2 **Cliff Beauglehole** made a survey of the vegetation of the North Central Area, and published *The Distribution and Conservation of Vascular Flora in the North Central Area, Victoria* in 1982. This was the first comprehensive list for our area. Club members helped Cliff in his surveys, and provided information about common and uncommon species.

3 **Herbarium**. The Club's herbarium was started with specimens provided by Cliff Beauglehole. It is an invaluable resource, and provides an accurately determined specimen of many of the local plants. Each specimen has a duplicate lodged with the National Herbarium.

4 **The Castlemaine Plant List** was begun using the surveys made by Cliff Beauglehole, and has been added to over the years. The list gives plant species that have been found in each of the local forest blocks, and also in the local ten minute grids. Dozens of copies have been printed.

5 **Information Booklets** have been prepared on a variety of topics. Initial finance came from the Dept of Conservation and Environment. Booklets have been prepared on nature walks, tours, plant groups, weeds, use of native plants in gardens, local geology, the botanic gardens, street trees, and birds. Many hundreds of these low cost booklets have been printed and sold.

6 **Roadside Conservation** has been prominent in recent years. Club members surveyed the roadsides of the former Maldon and Newstead Shires, and the City of Castlemaine. A consolidated list of the conservation value of each of the roadside verges in the new Shire should be ready in mid-February, together with a map of the shire showing the conservation values of each road. Club members have also been active on roadside management committees.

7 **Schools**. Club members have been working with schools by taking nature walks, by conducting nature study sessions, and by helping with environmental education. Schools also make use of the Club's herbarium. We also provide information to pupils for their projects.

8 **The Eltham Copper Butterfly**. We have, first with members of Easter Bikathon, and then with Conservation Trust for Volunteers, removed truck loads of Cape Broom and Flax-leaf Broom from the western side of the botanic gardens, and followed up by removal of thousands of seedling broom. We have collected bursaria seed (under license from CNR). Nurseries have used the seed to propagate bursaria, which have been planted in the gardens. We also are involved in the biological surveys made in the butterfly area.

9 **Shire Conservation Officer**. Club members have attended the meetings that led to the appointment of a Conservation Officer for the shire, and is represented on the new Mt Alexander Shire Conservation Committee.

10 **Our newsletter** provides an informal way of documenting the natural history of the district. The first issue was in April 1976, two months after the Club started. There have been 11 issues per year. Every issue has been prepared on time.

11 **Bushland Walks** have been organised for the public by the Club, particularly as part of the State Festivals and garden Festivals. Over the years hundreds of people have been on our tours.

12 **Information for Research Projects**. We provide information about local plant and animal populations to people carrying out research projects, and assist with other projects e.g. Loddon-Campaspe Regional Planning Authority strategy plan, the Glenluce/Vaughan Reserve management plan, botanic gardens management plan, and box/ironbark research groups. The Club has provided assistance to LEAP groups.

13 **Land Care**. Members have been involved in Land Care activities, as members of the groups, by providing programs, and by assisting in land care projects.

14 **Tourist Groups**. We provide leaders and conduct excursions for a range of non-local groups; including gardening groups, field naturalist clubs, walking clubs, and bird observer groups.

15 **Speakers**. Club members often address other groups, including land care, field naturalists, native plant growers, bird observers, garden clubs, and service clubs.

16 **Local committees**. CFNC members are on local committees e.g. Shire Fire Prevention Committee, the Horticultural and Gardens Advisory Committee and the Heritage Walks Committee.

17 **Conservation Issues**. We respond to conservation issues e.g. to Mt Alexander Hospital extension plans, Expedition Pass Reservoir, mining legislation, unused road legislation, control burning, development of a local streamside strategy, rationalisation of parklands in Castlemaine, quarrying on Mt Alexander and Mt Consultation, Newstead Shire Conservation Strategy, and mining effluent in Muckleford Creek.

18 **Officers for Naturalist Organisations**. The Club is affiliated with the Western Victoria Field Naturalists Clubs Association, and the Victorian Field Naturalists Clubs Association, and has twice provided office bearers. The Club has twice conducted campouts for the associations. We have at least one representative at most of the campouts.

19 **Rare Plants of the Mt Alexander Shire**. 141 plants which are rare or uncommon in the shire have been listed. Information about the local distribution of these has been collated, for use by Dept of C&NR (and possibly the Shire's Conservation Officer).

20 **Books donated to Castlemaine Library**. The Club donates the *Nature Australia* (formerly the *Australian Museum Magazine*) to the library. Bound copies of the newsletter have been placed in the reference section. Books donated include *Victorian Geology Excursion Guide* and a volume of *Flora of Victoria*.

The Club and its members do much more this, but 20 activities is appropriate for this article.

What of the future? 20 years is too far to look ahead, but some of the immediate goals could be:-

1 **Land Care**. We should aim to strengthen our links with land care groups.

2 **Forest and bushland reserves**. Over the past few years we have taken, as a club, greater interest in individual blocks. We should continue with this, and extend our bank of information. Most of the blocks lack signs, and interpretive boards at each would enhance the blocks.

3 **Photographic record** of the district, from set view points, made at regular intervals,(as suggested by Alan Reid) would help document changes to local bushland.

4 **Control burning**. We should make surveys (e.g. by setting up permanent quadrats, and regularly assessing vegetation changes) in areas where regular burning takes place.

5 **Land Conservation Council**, is about to start a survey of the box/ironbark forests. Contributions to the survey must be a priority over the next few years.

6 **Time lines**. We should keep diary type records of the natural history of our area, and aim to, at a later date, collate these.

E. Perkins.

The Thrill of the Chase

Ann and I recently spent two weeks eating and walking our way around Tasmania, a particularly enjoyable first for both of us. One of my aims was to find the 11 birds endemic to the state and write an article for the newsletter about it all. On reaching Bruny Island however, we stayed at Inala and discovered that Rita Mills had been there three weeks earlier - so much for an original article for the newsletter! I read Rita's article and can only echo her sentiments regarding Inala. It has everything that a holidaying naturalist could possibly want, extremely well informed and helpful hosts, birds and plants galore, serenity and very comfortable accomodation. Like Rita, I found 10 of the 11 endimics on Bruny Island, missing only the Scrubtit and it is my quest for the Scrubtit which I would like to relate.

Before my trip I did my usual research on the birds which I was likely to see which were unfamiliar to me. Calls, plumage, habitat and behaviour. The Scrubtit (Sericornis magnus) is a member of the Scrub Wren family and the field guide pictures indicate a fair degree of similarity with the White-browed Scrub Wren - in particular the Tasmanian race (S.m. humilis) which has much less of a white brow than the mainland races. To make it even harder, the call is likened to one of the calls of the White-browed Scrub Wren.

On Bruny Island I tried very hard to turn several hundred White-browed Scrub Wrens into Scrubtits, but to no avail, but what I did was to get to know the White-browed Scrub Wren intimately. A check of the distribution map gave me hope that I could find a Scrubtit elsewhere. Mount Field National Park was our next port of call - another spot which I could recommend very highly. I saw my first Eastern Quoll and Barred Bandicoot there, both in the camping area. But, alas, no Scrubtits, just several more hundred White-browed Scrub Wrens.

A relatively birdless sojourn to the West Coast left the Lemonthyme forest as the last real possibility of a sighting. The Lemonthyme Lodge was our base for two days . We decided to take one of the walks from the Lodge, which soon produced promising wet fern gully habitat. Then a "too-wee-too" call, like a White-browed Scrub Wren but somehow different. I had heard many similar calls over the preceeding two weeks, but I knew this one was not the same. Then the bird appeared, like a White-browed Scrub Wren, only different - the white spot on the shoulder, the facial markings. Five seconds later it disappeared into the scrub. I had another tick on my Life List, but better still, I had a feeling of immense satisfaction which Anne noticed and wondered what all the fuss was about. The Scrubtit is an amazingtly dull and boring bird, it has no particularly appealing features in appearance or behaviour - so

why did I feel so good? I have watched Pink Cockatoos flying across a setting sun and experienced similar emotions. What was it about a little brown bird in a dark fern gully? An interest in natural history provides such contradictions and I guess that's what I love about it; the sheer visual beauty in some cases and the thrill of the chase in others. I can't imagine life without it.

The experience reinforced two of my early lessons in birdwatching - firstly, get to know your common birds really well. It can be tempting to say "just another White-browed Scrub Wren" and put the glasses down, but by really knowing the common birds it is easier to notice something different when it presents itself. The other lesson, of course, is to do your homewhork before you go - I am doing my flowering plant homework already in preparation for our next trip!

Nigel Harland.

Native Terrestial Orchids found at "Inala", Bruny Island.

Caladenia carnea (Pink Fingers)
" lyalli (Mountain Caledenia)
" patersonii (Common Spider Orchid)
" caudata? (Tailed Spider Orchid)
Leptoceras menziesii (Hare Orchid)
Burnettia cuneata (Lizard Orchid)
Caleana major (Large Duck Orchid)
Chilloglottis gunnii (Common Bird Orchid)
" reflexa (Autumn Bird Orchid)
Eriochilus cucullatus (Parson's Bands)
Glossodia major (Wax-lip Orchid)
Pterostylus longifolia (Tall Greenhood)
" nutans (Nodding Greenhood)
" parviflora (Tiny Greenhood)
" pedunculata (Maroonhood)
Prasophyllum parviflorum (Slender Leek Orchid)
" australe (Austral/Southern Leek Orchid)
" ororatum (Sweet/Scented Leek Orchid)
Thelymitra aristata (Giant Sun Orchid)
" nuda (Scented Sun Orchid)
" cyanea (Veined Sun Orchid)
" ixioides (Dotted Sun Orchid)
" rubra (Salmon Sun Orchid)
" pauciflora (Slender Sun Orchid)
" pulchella (Beautiful/Rare Veined Sun Orchid)
" carnea (Pink Sun Orchid)
" media ? (Medium Sun Orchid)

Chalochilus campestris (Copper Beard Orchid)
" robertsonii (Purple Beard Orchid
Corybas diemenicus (Toothed Helmet Orchid)
Microtis unifolia (Common Onion Orchid)
Acianthus caudata (Mayfly Orchid)
" exertus (Mosquito Orchid)
Gastrodia sesamoides (Cinnamon Bells/Potato Orchid)
A total of 33 possibly 35 species.

Tonia Cochran, Inala.

(Seven of this list were added this month to the original one I received in November. R.M.)

Bird List for Gower
24/12/96, 9.30am - 12.00pm

Weather fine, mild, light breeze.
* = additional observation

Superb Fairy Wren
Galah
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Red Wattlebird
Fuscous Honeyeater *
Eastern Rosella
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater
Brown Tree-creeper
White-browed Woodswallow*
Yellow Robin
Grey Shrike-thrush
Olive-backed Oriole
Sacred Kingfisher
White-winged Chough
Willie Wagtail
Magpie
Brown Goshawk

Additional Observations

1) Fuscous Honeyeater spotted at its nest. It seemed to sit on the nest, then flew away. 8 minutes later a bird reurned - seems this time to poke its head in (tail goes up) - possibly feeding young? (The nest was about 20 metres above the ground). Flies away again and a few seconds later what was probably a second bird appeared from the opposite direction - again it could have been feeding young - it leaves. 1 minute later the other (?) bird returns - again a brief visit. 1 minute later bird returns - it briefly flys to another part of the tree - returns to the nest - flys away again - the activity seems almost constant - could be nest building? Perhaps lining the inside? The nest looks like a neat cup. I followed the bird on two forays away from the nest - only away for about one minute - I couldn't tell, but it seemed to be after food (insects?) rather than nesting material - certainly nothing large in the beak on its return to the nest.

Finally, just as I am about to leave, the bird comes to the ground about 6 metres from me and wanders about in the dry grass - leaping every now and then, seemingly at the tips of the dry strands.

Eventually it succeeds in plucking a thin strand of brown grass and returns to tne nest in a roundabout way - stopping twice at other locations. I can still clearly see the strand of grass - so - BUILDING! Total time observed - 25 minutes.

2) White-browed Woodswallow: observed female pushing nesting material into the fork of a small gum. Male bird turned up about 2 minutes later. He passed a strand of material to the female who proceeded to position it in the nest.

Phillip West.

Birds at 61 Hunter Street, January

A flock of Musk Lorikeets are feeding around the area; the daily squabbles between the Crimson and Eastern Rosellas continue - presumably territorial.

Eastern Spinebills, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and New Holland Honeyeaters visit the tall spikes of the Red Hot Poker at frequent intervals, and the pair of Rufous Whistlers still treat us to a daily serenade.

Silvereyes and thornbills come in groups to the bird bath, and a Grey Fantail with two dainty offspring were feeding on insects after the grass had been mowed.

A Goldfinch pair have been feeding two fledglings in the peach tree, and the "resident" Magpie and Blackbirds have produced young this season. In regard to the population explosion amongst the Sparrows, the less said the better!

Shirley Parnaby

Sandon Birds, November/December

N = November D = December

Pacific Black Duck N, D
Little Black Cormorant D
White-faced Heron N, D
Little Eagle N, D
Brown Falcon N, D
Masked Lapwing N, D
Galah N, D
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo N
Crimson Rosella N, D
Eastern Rosella D
Red-rumped Parrot D

Pallid Cuckoo N
Shining Bronze-cuckoo N, D
Australian Owlet-nightjar D (h)
Laughing Kookaburra D
White-throated Treecreeper N, D
Wren N, D
Spotted Pardalote N, D
Striated Pardalote N, D
Weebill N, D
Brown N, D,
Buff-rumped N, D,

Yellow-rumped N, D and
Striated N, D, Thornbills
Southern Whiteface D
Red Wattlebird N, D
Brown-headed Honeyeater D
Yellow-faced Honeyeater N
Scarlet Robin N, D
White-browed Babbler D
Rufous Whistler N, D
Grey Shrike-thrush N, D
Magpie Lark N, D
Grey Fantail N, D
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike N, D
Olive-backed Oriole N, D(h)
Australian Magpie N, D
Grey Currawong N, D
Austrailian Raven N, D
White-winged Chough N, D
Diamond Firetail N, D
Mistletoebird N, D
Welcome Swallow N, D

Susanna Starr

November/December Observations

* Adult Nankeen Nightheron in the Gardens, seen late evening from the bridge to the pool, looking across the lake towards the main entrance, on a low branch of the willows, with another one higher up in the tree. Marg. W.
* A Shining Bronze-cuckoo found dead on the back door mat. Mary W.
* A koala seen at Sandon on the property on 6/12 at 8.30pm. Looked like a big male with a faded red tag in its right ear. Thereafter was heard on various occasions in the evening until 23/12. An echidna was seen on 4/12. S.S.
* A Rufous Bristle Bird seen for about 3 minutes at Port Campbell. K.D.
* Two Galahs were seen flying with an adolescent Magpie and a pure white albino Galah just south-east of Newstead. Adolescent Magpies have often been seen with Galahs. M.D.
* One Shriketit was seen at Mt Alexander. In a group they seem O.K. but when there was only the one the Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters were hassling it. However, the Shriketit and one of the honeyeaters were posturing within 20cms of each other when the Shriketit aggressively raised the crest until it was quite large and bent forward rather like a cockatoo's crest, far larger and more prominent than is usually seen when it raises it when feeding. M.H.
* The Frogmouths at North Castlemaine have raised four young this season. R.M.
* Boobooks have been heard calling. S.P., K.D. The ones in the Gardens have left. S.P.
* New Holland Honeyeaters have been enjoying the flowering Red Hot Pokers. B.M.
* John Robinson of the Sutton Grange Landcare group has been doing a survey for the Army at Puckapunyal and reported recently to the group that Stone Curlews are increasing in numbers in the Pucka area. M.H.

* A Sacred Kingfisher has been seen on several occasions recently along the creek in the Botanic Gardens, feeding on dragonflies and, presumably, insects taken from a hollow on the trunk of a willow to which it made frequent visits, then perched on a nearby branch to consume the results. Also observed enjoying a dip in the lake and grooming on a low branch overhanging the water on the island. S.P.
* Another welcome sight at the creek in the gardens was a water rat swimming and diving in one of the deeper pools. At one stage partly emerged from the water on to a protruding snag, he seemed to be sharpening his claws! S.P.
* A fox was seen at 9am and returned at 10 am under her clothes line in Burnett Rd. P.M.
* A Shelbourne farmer harvesting wheat disturbed Swamp Harriers with 4 chicks. At a house on the same property Boobook Owls have 3 young in an Elm tree. M.O.
* A Nankeen Night Heron was seen feeding three early mornings in a row at Lake Johanna later in the month. Four young Brown Goshawks seen swooping together in the wilder part of the Botanic Gardens over 2 weeks. Marg. W.
* Sparrows were seen taking cicadas in a Harcourt garden. B.E.
* Two Grey Fantails were seen circling around the clothes-line, despite the owners presence. M.O.
* A young Hobby was seen on a fence line on the Sutton Grange/Faraday Road. C.M.

Spotlighting at Walmer

About 20 people turned up for this special meeting and outing on Wednesday Dec.13 with Gerry Alexander. Gerry explained the reason for the spotlighting - they are trying to find the status of the Tuan, the Squirrel Glider, the Powerful Owl and the Tree Goanna. He felt that the Squirrel Glider could be in this area, and the Tuan has been seen by several members and Powerful Owls have been seen in the district.

He handed out the sheet which is used to record the time, wind, cloud cover etc, and he explained how the survey is carried out.

We went out to the east end of Lewis's Lane, and he explained before we set out that the survey is usually done for a set period of time over a set area. It was worked out that to cover the specified area we would have to walk for 500 metres along the road. Warning us to be quiet and stop immediatly he stopped, we set out. It was a lovely night, and there were lots of insects flying to the light, but, until we got to the Red Gum area which had some understory on the flat and near the creek, nothing else was to be seen. Finally a Brushtail Possum was spotted. To be recorded was the species of tree it was in, its girth at

head height, what the animal was doing when first spotted and its height above the ground. Two Ringtails, whose behaviour was quite different from the Brushy - they reckoned that if they stayed quite still nobody would notice them - were also seen. The only bird spotted was a Frogmouth which Albert Golden picked up with his spotlight.

It was noticable that when we left the creek vegetation and got among the Box trees without much undergrowth the animals disappeared, and all we had were insects again.

Several people had to leave early at about 11 o'clock, including myself, and I suspect every one regretted it as much as I did. It proved to be a most interesting night, and I now have a far better idea how to carry out a spotlight survey for myself.

Rita Mills.

Uncommon Plants of the Castlemaine District

STICKY BORONIA

Sticky Boronia is found in only two spots in the district that I know about. One is about half a kilometre south of the Red White and Blue mine in the Muckleford Forest, on a stony ridge in an ironbark area. The other is at Irishtown, north of the Irishtown- Vaughan Road. Here again the boronias are close to a ridge, but not in ironbark country.

A few years ago, the boronia patch at Muckleford was completely burned out, and we had concerns about the survival of the boronia. Our fears were groundless, and the boronias came up thicker than ever.

On a visit to Muckleford Forest in mid-autumn, it was hard to find the boronia bushes. Closer inspection showed that they we still there, but had been eaten back to bare stems. Only a few leaves could be found on a few plants. Apparently they are attractive to grazing animals, at least in a drought year. In the granite areas, many small sapling plants have been denuded by grasshoppers. Here, the boronia bushes protected by prickly acacias were little eaten, suggesting that the grazers were wallabies or kangaroos.

It will be interesting to see how the boronias recover when rains come.

Although uncommon in this district, Sticky Boronia is widespread and occurs in all of the Eastern States. The distribution of plants such as boronia provides a puzzle. Why does it grow in these two unconnected areas in the Castlemaine district? Was it once more widespread, and has its range decreased? Or are these pioneer populations - the seeds perhaps spread by birds?

This boronia is called "sticky"; which describes the leaves very well. They are small and trifoliate, with small glands, and are strongly scented (of turpentine), no doubt to make them unattractive as a food. Sticky Boronia flowers profusely, and makes an excellent garden plant. Some have grown well in Kaweka for many years.

The genus is named after Francesco Borone, an 18th Century Italian Botanist. The specific name is given because of the resemblance to the Anemone genus.

E.P.

CASTLEMAINE F.N.C. PROGRAM

N.B. Excursions leave promptly at times stated.
General Meetings are held at Continuing Education, Templeton Street. .

Fri Feb 9 **Annual Meeting and 20th Birthday.** Speakers will be 4 foundation members; George Broadway, Rita Mills, Geoff Sitch and Ern Perkins. Supper.
Sat Feb 10 **Birthday Lunch in the Botanic Gardens.** A B.Y.O. lunch. 12 noon, at the Rose Garden Car Park. This is near the new band rotunda. Lunch will be followed by a commemorative tree planting in Urquhart St. (south of the highway, near the creek.
Sun Feb 11 **Dawn Breakfast at Kalimna Point.** Our birthday continued. 6 am. at Kalimna Point. You may be earlier if you wish. From the east end of Lyttleton St., Drive about 200 metres north along Kalimna Tourist Road to the Kalimna Point car park. We will watch the sun rise from the Hilltop about 50 m. *east* of the car park. Afterwards BYO breakfast in the band rotunda on the *west* side of the road at the Point.

Thurs Feb 15 **U3A/FNC Birdwatching** Meet Cont. Ed. Car Park at 9.30
Fri Mar 8 **Walking in Nepal.** Speaker is Bruce Douglas.
Sat. Mar 9 **Tullaroop Reservoir** Afternoon excursion. Take tea. Time to be decided at the general meeting.
March 8 - 11 **VFNCA camp at Mt Portsea.** See article p. 7 of Castlemaine Naturalist Oct. '95 for program and booking details.
Fri Apr 12. **Introduction to Beetles.**Speaker is Peter Kelly
Fri May 10 **Waders in Siberia** Speaker is Mike Weston.
Fri July 12 **Some Birds of the Castlemaine district.** Program by Club members.

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Committee: C. Morris (Pres.), G. Broadway (V.P.), M. Willis (Sec.), B. Envall (Treas.), K. Turner (Prog.), R.Mills (P.O. & N/L Ed.), E. Perkins, M. Oliver, S. Parnaby, S. Bruton, B. Maund. * Secretary's term ends at the Annual Meeting.

New members are needed for the Committee - fresh ideas are needed!

Finance The Committee recommends that Subscriptions remain the same as for 1975.

Meetings:-

General - Second Friday every month (except Jan) at **Continuing Education, Templeton St.** at 8 pm.

Business - Held on the 4th Thursday every month (except Dec.) at 38 Campbell Street at 7.30pm. **All Members are invited to attend.**

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Castlemaine Field Naturalists' Club Inc.
P.O. Box 324, Castlemaine, 3450.